

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Previously Presented) A limb for a breathing circuit comprising:
 - an inlet,
 - an outlet, and
 - an enclosing wall defining a substantially singular exhalation flow passage between said inlet and said outlet, at least a region of said enclosing wall being of a material that allows the passage of water vapour without allowing the passage of liquid water or respiratory gases.
 - a water vapour flow path from said exhalation flow passage to ambient air through said material, and
 - wherein said limb is an expiratory limb of the breathing circuit.

2. (Previously Presented) A limb for a breathing circuit as claimed in claim 1 wherein said material is selected from:
 - (a) hydrophilic thermoplastics,
 - (b) perfluorinated polymers,
 - (c) woven treated fabrics.

3. (Previously Presented) A limb for a breathing circuit as claimed in claim 1 wherein said material is a perfluorinated polymer membrane.

4. (Previously Presented) A limb for a breathing circuit as claimed in claim 1 wherein said material is a hydrophilic polyester block copolymer.

5. (Previously Presented) A limb for a breathing circuit as claimed in claim 1 wherein said flow passage is a conduit and said region or regions is or are distributed over the length of said conduit.

6. (Previously Presented) A limb for a breathing circuit as claimed in claim 5 wherein said region or regions are elongate and run at least a substantial part of the length of said conduit.

7. (Previously Presented) A limb for a breathing circuit as claimed in claim 5 including a series of said regions spaced along the length of said conduit.

8. (Previously Presented) A limb for a breathing circuit as claimed in claim 5 wherein said conduit including said regions is extruded.

9. (Previously Presented) A limb for a breathing circuit as claimed in claim 3 wherein the entire of said extruded conduit is of a material that allows the passage of water vapour without allowing the passage of liquid water or respiratory gases.

10. (Previously Presented) A limb for a breathing circuit as claimed in claim 8 wherein said regions of a material that allows the passage of water vapour without allowing the passage of

liquid water or respiratory gases are one or more longitudinal strips running the complete length of said conduit.

11. (Previously Presented) A limb for a breathing circuit as claimed in claim 5 wherein said conduit includes at least one helically wound polymer tape or strip, part or all of said strip being of a material that allows the passage of water vapour without allowing the passage of liquid water or respiratory gases, respective edges of adjacent turns of said strip being adjoining or overlapping and bonded.

12. (Previously Presented) A limb for a breathing circuit as claimed in claim 5 wherein said conduit includes at least one longitudinal strip, part or all of said strip being of a material that allows the passage of water vapour without allowing the passage of liquid water or respiratory gases, said strip or strips extending parallel to the axis of said conduit, edges of said strip or strips adjoining or overlapping to form an enclosed tube and bonded.

13. (Previously Presented) A limb for a breathing circuit as claimed in claim 5 wherein said conduit is a blown film tube of a material that allows the passage of water vapour without allowing the passage of liquid water or respiratory gases.

14. (Previously Presented) A limb for a breathing circuit as claimed in any one of claims 10 to 13 including lateral reinforcement against crushing.

15. (Previously Presented) A limb for a breathing circuit as claimed in claim 14
wherein said lateral reinforcement includes a plurality of annular corrugations distributed over
the length of said conduit.

16. (Previously Presented) A limb for a breathing circuit as claimed in claim 14
wherein said lateral reinforcement is a helical bead or a series of annular ring beads or ribs
distributed over the length of said conduit.

17. (Previously Presented) A limb for a breathing circuit as claimed in claim 11
including lateral reinforcement against crushing wherein said lateral reinforcement is a helical
bead disposed over said adjoining or overlapping edges between turns of strip.

18. (Previously Presented) A limb for a breathing circuit as claimed in claim 4
wherein said lateral reinforcement is a skeletal reinforcing structure within said conduit.

Claims 19-59 (Canceled)